



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

House Call Newsletter

October 2021

Note from the Rector



Dear members and friends of St. Luke's,

With deep sadness, I am writing to share with you that I am resigning from my ministry as Rector of St. Luke's Church. I have made this decision after much prayerful discernment and in conversation with my family, trusted colleagues, and Bishop Sutton. My final Sunday will be November 21, 2021.

I know that my leaving will come as a shock to many of you, and I want to assure you that the reasons for this decision are entirely personal. As you know, my wife Sarah has been unwell for over a year. In the spring, she ended her ministry with St. Mary Magdalene Church and went onto long-term disability. During this same time, Sarah's father's cancer has been progressing. He was recently placed on the final medication that has a chance of slowing the cancer down. When that ceases to help, only palliative care will remain.

The stresses of the past few years have taken their toll on my health, as well. As hard as it is for me to admit, I know that I need a break from active ministry in order to rest, regain balance, and discern where I am being called next.

We had been planning for Sarah to make an extended visit to her family in England this fall. We have now decided to relocate to be with them for a longer period of time. We will go to England in mid-October, and I will stay for two weeks as originally planned. I will then return to complete my ministry with St. Luke's before joining Sarah in England indefinitely.

St. Luke's has been an amazing community to serve alongside for nearly 10 years. We have accomplished much together, and we will make time to celebrate this in the weeks ahead. Your authenticity, unconditional welcome, and genuine care for one another are truly rare and special gifts within the church. You are also blessed with strong and faithful lay leaders, who are well equipped to guide St. Luke's into its next chapter. I know that you will continue to shine the light of God's love brightly in Eastport and beyond.

Sarah and I have received so much care and support from this community throughout our time with you. Words are inadequate to express our gratitude. We trust that God will guide us into new pathways for ministry, when the time is right.

With love and gratitude,
Diana+

Vestry Highlights

In place of their regular monthly meeting, the vestry members and officers participated in a Vestry Retreat together over Zoom on Saturday, September 18. They worshiped together, shared how this year has impacted them and their perspective on church, and began the work of updating our parish mission statement.

The next vestry meeting will be Saturday, October 16 via Zoom. Bishop Sutton will be in attendance as part of his visitation to the parish.

2. Use your bank's online bill-paying feature to have a check mailed to the church on a regular basis at no additional cost to you.
3. Contact our Treasurer, Nancy Jones, to set up a regular direct bank transfer (ACH) from your checking account to ours.

And don't forget, if you are receiving distributions from an IRA, you can have contributions go directly to St. Luke's from the IRA, and they will not be taxed as a distribution. This is especially helpful if you are no longer itemizing deductions on your tax returns.

Treasurer's Report

June, 2021

Income;	Actual	Budget
Pledges	51,675	67,500
Other	<u>45,930</u>	<u>26,270</u>
Total Income	97,605	93,770
Expenses:	<u>97,961</u>	<u>91,148</u>
Net gain	<u>-356</u>	<u>2,621</u>
Checking	31,415	
Investments	78,796	

Save St. Luke's Money!

We are deeply grateful to everyone who has continued to give so faithfully to St. Luke's throughout this challenging time. Many of you have made use of our online giving program Givelify to schedule regular donations. Thank you!

You may not be aware that **for every Givelify donation, a 3% fee is charged.** This comes out of the donation itself, reducing the amount that comes to the church. Over time, these fees collectively add up to hundreds of dollars!

If you give online, please consider one of these options to help St. Luke's save money:

1. Increase your online gift by 3% to offset the fee.

Worship Updates: Delta Variant

In light of rapidly increasing COVID-19 infection rates and the ability of vaccinated individuals to spread the Delta variant, we have suspended hybrid services and returned to worshipping fully online or by phone for the time being.

Under diocesan guidelines, we are back in the Orange Phase of regathering. **Masks and social distancing are required indoors for everyone, regardless of vaccination status.** The safety and well-being of our worshipers and their families continues to be our highest priority.

Other forms of gathering:

- St. Luke's Food Pantry continues to operate on Tuesday mornings under their revised protocols.
- The Contemplative Prayer Group is meeting solely on Zoom at this time.
- Small groups, such as committees, are encouraged to meet outdoors or on Zoom. If you are meeting in person at the church (even outside) or using the church Zoom account, please make sure to check the calendar for space/Zoom availability and schedule your meeting with Dalyn Huntley.
- Outside groups may meet only if the requirements for masking and social distancing can be maintained, with the agreement of the Rector.

Bishop's Visitation on the Feast of St. Luke

The Rt. Rev. Eugene Sutton, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, will make a visitation to St. Luke's on **Sunday, October 17**. This coincides with the celebration of our patronal festival, the Feast of St. Luke, transferred from October 18. Bishop Sutton will be our preacher and celebrant for the remote worship service that morning. There will also be time for conversation with him afterward via Zoom and Facebook.

Holy Communion for Remote Worship

Following diocesan guidelines, we are again distributing Holy Communion to be received during our remote worship service. Prepackaged wine and bread are consecrated on a Sunday and made available for pickup from the church at a designated time.

The next date for pickup will be **Saturday, October 16 from 2 to 3 pm** to receive during worship for the Feast of St. Luke the following day. If you are unable to pick up from the church during that time, please contact Dalyn Huntley to make alternate arrangements (410-268-5419 or office@stlukeseastport.org).

Stewardship Season

Each year in the fall, St. Luke's designates several weeks as our Stewardship Season. This practice developed out of what used to be the "annual pledge drive," meaning a time of asking our members to make a commitment of financial giving for the coming year. That is still one piece of it, but we have intentionally broadened the focus to look more generally at how we are stewards of what God has given us, and to discuss themes of generosity and gratitude.

This year, Stewardship Season begins on Sunday, October 10 and culminates on Sunday, October 31. During this time, our worship services will include sermons, hymns, and prayers centered around themes of stewardship. We will also hear from members of our congregation sharing why St. Luke's is important to

them, why they give to St. Luke's, or their perspective on giving and generosity as part of the life of faith. A letter from the wardens with information about pledging will be mailed out to the congregation soon. **If you intend to support St. Luke's financially in 2022, we ask that you please return your pledge card or make a pledge online by Sunday, October 31.** Thank you for your dedication to our church community. As Pastor Diana says every Sunday, "your generosity is what makes all of our work and worship possible, and we thank you."

Blessing of the Animals

Bring your feathered, furry, and scaly friends to be blessed at St. Luke's on **Saturday, October 2, 2021 at 4 pm**. The service will be held outdoors in our amphitheater. Everyone is welcome, so invite your friends and neighbors! If your pets are particularly averse to crowds, you can bring a photograph or a beloved toy to be blessed.

Honoring Indigenous Peoples Walk At the Eastport Memorial Labyrinth

**Saturday, October 9
12 noon to 1 pm**

Anne Arundel County and a growing number of jurisdictions across the United States now recognize the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day. In honor of those who have inhabited this land for more than 10,000 years, all are welcome to attend the monthly guided walk at the Eastport Memorial Labyrinth on **Saturday, October 9 at noon**.

The labyrinth is an ancient pattern found in many cultures around the world. Many patterns are based on spirals from nature. In Native American culture it is called the Medicine Wheel and Man in the Maze.

We meet at the log amphitheater just below the labyrinth for an introduction, and then we gather there again for conversation following the walk. Masks are **OPTIONAL** but encouraged for those that are unvaccinated. Labyrinth walks take place rain or shine, so please dress for the weather.

We strive to make our events as accessible and inclusive as possible. The grassy path of the Eastport Memorial Labyrinth is wide and flat enough to navigate with a wheelchair or walker. A hand-held labyrinth is also available as an alternative to walking.

Labyrinth walks are held at the Eastport Memorial Labyrinth on the front of the grounds of St. Luke's on the second Saturday of each month from noon to 1 pm. Everyone is always welcome.

Upcoming Walks

November 13: Gratitude Walk

December 11: Walking in the Light

For questions, contact the parish office at 410-268-5419 or office@stlukeseastport.org.

Outdoor Communion Service:

We will hold an outdoor communion service in the amphitheater on **Saturday, October 30 at 5 pm**, weather permitting. COVID-19 mitigation strategies, such as wearing masks and social distancing, will be dependent on diocesan guidelines at that time. You are welcome to bring your own chairs or blankets to supplement the log benches.

In case of inclement weather, a decision whether to cancel the service will be made by 4 pm that day. It will be posted to our website and Facebook page.

Labyrinth Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Eastport Memorial Labyrinth Committee will take place on **Saturday, October 9 from 10 to 11:30 am**, prior to our regular monthly walk at 12 noon. For more information, contact Rev. Diana Carroll at 410-268-5419 or pastordiana@stlukeseastport.org

Fall Restoration Workdays

As fall approaches, pollinators are especially busy storing energy reserves. Fall is a busy time in the Restoration of Nature for us, as well. Check out these opportunities.

Saturday October 16, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., St. Luke's neighbor and Master Watershed Steward candidate

Jenny Janis will be installing a conservation landscape planting for her capstone project.

Saturday October 23, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., we will be having another Project Clean Stream event in partnership with the [Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay](#). We will also be getting volunteer Midshipmen from the Naval Academy. Come out and help us clean up trash and remove invasive plants.

Saturday November 6, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., volunteers from the USNA Midshipmen Action Group (MAG) will again be helping us with invasive plant removal. This is another great opportunity to make headway in our invasive plant management, as these workdays had to be cancelled last year.

Environmental Committee Meetings

The Environmental Committee at St. Luke's seeks to spread environmental stewardship through education, advocacy, and volunteerism on a teaching campus that heals the human spirit while caring for creation. **The meetings will continue to be held remotely via Zoom at 7 pm on Thursday, October 14.** All are welcome to attend. For questions, contact Chuck Gallegos (gallegoscl@verizon.net) or Anne Arms (armspna@aol.com).

Calendar Donations

Many of us receive too many calendars in the mail at this time of year – yes already!

For several years members and friends of St. Luke's have donated our extra calendars to the Baltimore International Seafarer's Center for distribution to worldwide seafarers. "Serving those who go down to the sea in ships." Please give your extra calendars to Helen Wheeler or drop them at the parish office.

General Convention in Baltimore next Summer

The 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church will take place **July 7 - 14, 2022**, at the Baltimore Convention Center. Anyone can attend the worship services, observe the House of Deputies and House of

Bishops, and visit the exhibit hall. Worship services and legislative proceedings are also streamed online.

If you are interested in volunteering for one or two days, sign up here:
https://dfms.formstack.com/forms/volunteer_interest

If you are interested in being a volunteer supervisor (minimum commitment of five days), click here:
https://episcopaldioceseofmaryland.formstack.com/forms/gc_volunteer_supervisors

Altar Flower Dedications

It is the tradition at St. Luke's to beautify our worship space with two flower arrangements each week. These arrangements are funded through individual donations.

If you would like to dedicate the flowers for a particular Sunday in 2021 in memory of someone or in honor of a special occasion, please contact our administrative assistant Dalyn Huntley at 410-268-5419 or office@stlukeseastport.org. The requested donation amount is \$50 and may be made either by check or online with the memo "Flowers." Following the service, the flowers are delivered to a member of the congregation to enjoy.

Join a Team!

Even though we are not gathering indoors for worship or meetings at this time, many of our ministries have remained very active and would welcome new members! We invite you to consider joining one of these ministry teams, which are open to everyone:

Worship Planning Team
Formation Team
Environmental Committee
Labyrinth Committee
Flower Ministry
Altar Guild
Readers/Intercessors
Altar Servers

Many of these teams meet regularly over Zoom, and the meetings are open to everyone. For meeting times

and more information, contact Pastor Diana at pastordiana@stlukeseastport.org or 410-921-0157.

Rector's Travels

Pastor Diana will be away from the parish from **Wednesday, October 13 through Thursday, October 28**. She will be spending time with family in England and also visiting the island of Iona in Scotland as part of the New Member Program for the Iona Community.

Our preacher and celebrant on October 17 will be the Rt. Rev. Eugene Sutton, Bishop of Maryland, who is making a visitation to the parish. On October 24, we will welcome back the Rev. John Keydel as preacher and celebrant.

If you have a pastoral need during this time, please contact Congregational Care Coordinator Dianne Crews at dmackcrn@verizon.net or 410-292-0836.

Are you on our email list?

If you have an email address but are not receiving our weekly email newsletters each Wednesday, please let us know by emailing office@stlukeseastport.org. These weekly emails are an important means of communicating information to our community in between editions of the House Call. If you are not on email but would like to have a printout of the weekly "News from St. Luke's" sent to you by hard copy, please contact Dalyn Huntley in the church office: 410-268-5419.

House Call Deadline

The deadline for submission of materials to the next edition of House Call is no later than **Thursday, October 21, 2021**. Submissions may be emailed to the office at office@stlukeseastport.org



Smith); **Love & Newton** families; **Lance** Binnal (friend of Kathleen Rewa); **Jennifer** Brown; **Jack** Wheeler.

Thanksgiving for Healing: Helen Leitch

For the Departed: The Rt. Rev. John Shelby "Jack" Spong, former Bishop of the Diocese of Newark (NJ); **Kay Hope Love Newton** (sister of Betsy Love); **Becky Bailey** (sister of Jennifer Brown); **Joyce Franklin-McGee** (sister of Thelma Jackson).

St. Luke's has a long-standing tradition of remembering the birthdays and anniversaries of our members with a card and in the newsletter, as well as praying for those who are present on the preceding Sunday. If you are new to the St. Luke's community or unsure if we have your birthday/anniversary, please let us know when it is! Send the information to the office by phone or email (410-268-5419 or office@stlukeseastport.org).

October Birthdays

- 1 Linda Cunningham
- 8 Olgui Zarikian
- 17 Jacob Williams
- 26 Sandie Kirkland
- 28 Lavern Riley

October Anniversaries

- 5 Jack & Helen Wheeler
- 13 Charles & Phyllis Suhr
- 13 Vrej Zarikian & Michele Morgado
- 14 David Dent & Heather Ackroyd

Prayer List

Ongoing Needs: Connie Harold; the Palermo Family; Heather Cook; Sydney Ponturo; Sally and Fred Sandford; Nicole DeVino (friend of Dianne Crews); Patty Peterson (friend of Helen & Jack Wheeler); Hilda Uribe (friend of Avedis & Olgui Zarikian); David Fogle; Jimmy Riccardi; Chuck Suhr; Deacon Bob McCoy; Karen Sears-Wright (mother of Lexi Wright); Deacon Mary Walton.

Immediate Needs: **Diana** and **Alastair** McGregor; **Sarah** Lamming; **Ned**; **Patricia**; **Bill** Beachy (uncle of Pastor Diana); **John** Lamming (father of Sarah Lamming); **Vince** Musgrave (son-in-law of Dianne & Norm Crews+); **Carolyn** Abbott (mother of Robert Abbott); **Bill** Huebl; **Kathy** Kotowski (friend of Eve & Mike Waldman); **Dagmar** Kohring; **Lucy** Sprigg; **Linda** Cunningham; **Jennifer** Miles (friend of Kathleen Rewa); **Paul** Craley; **Olgui** Zarikian; **Mabel** Zelle (friend of Paul Craley and Joy Philips); **the people of Haiti and Afghanistan**; **Rei** Harada-Stark (daughter in law of Pete Stark); **Lee** Riley; **Ian** Wilson (father of Johanna Wilson-

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

410-268-5419 ~ office@stlukeseastport.org
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www.facebook.com/stlukeseastport

Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, Bishop
The Rt. Rev. Robert W. Ihloff, Assisting Bishop

Parish Staff

The Rev. Diana E. Carroll, Rector
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The Rev. Norman Crews, Priest Associate

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Ministry Contacts

Altar Guild	Dawn Moorehead 443-852-0371, dmorehead9@aol.com
Environmental Committee	Chuck Gallegos 443-758-3036, gallegoscl@verizon.net Anne Arms 707-479-4303, armspna@aol.com
Food Pantry	Mike Waldman 757-387-2251, mwaldman@juno.com
Flower Ministry	Anne Arms 707-479-4303, armspna@aol.com
Labyrinth Committee	The Rev. Diana Carroll 410-921-0157, pastordiana@stlukeseastport.org

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